

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method of transferring a flexible material web from an upstream section to at least one downstream section of a machine having a web running direction, said machine being configured for at least one of manufacturing and treating the material web, said method comprising:

5 providing two separation elements;

using said two separation elements to split and thereby separate the material web into an edge strip, an adjoining transfer strip and a remaining web adjoining the transfer strip, the edge strip extending in the web running direction, the transfer strip having a side;

deflecting the edge strip to the side of and away from the transfer strip; and

10 simultaneously tautening the edge strip during said deflecting step.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the material web is one of a paper web and a cardboard web, the machine being a paper machine.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of deflecting further comprises the sub-steps of:

providing at least one air jet proximate the edge strip; and

using said at least one air jet to deflect the edge strip.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of guiding the edge strip to one of a pulper and a waste container.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said edge strip has a relevant web edge, a first of said separation elements being disposed most closely to the relevant web edge, said first of said separation elements being activated first in order to produce the edge strip, a second of said separation elements being subsequently activated to produce the transfer strip after tautening and  
5 deflection of the edge strip.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said edge strip has a relevant web edge and the remaining web has an opposite web edge and a second of the separation elements is further disposed from the relevant web edge, and further comprising the steps of:

transferring the transfer strip to at least one downstream machine section; and  
5 thereafter moving the second of the separation elements to the opposite web edge to separate the remaining web.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the edge strip has a relevant web edge and a first of the separation elements is disposed most closely to the relevant web edge, and further comprising the steps of:

transferring the transfer strip to at least one downstream machine section; and  
5 thereafter moving the first of the separation elements to the relevant web edge to separate the edge web.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the edge strip has a relevant web edge, and further comprising the step of transferring the transfer strip, the transfer strip being produced in the region of the relevant web edge at least at a start of the transferring step.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the edge strip has a relevant web edge, the transfer strip being first produced at a smaller spacing to the relevant web edge, the spacing to the relevant web edge being subsequently enlarged by an appropriate movement of at least one of said separation elements in a direction transverse to the web running direction.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the remaining web has an opposite web edge, a maximum spacing of the transfer strip to the relevant web edge being smaller than a spacing thereof to the opposite web edge.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the transfer strip is accordingly positioned by a movement of at least one of said separation elements in a transverse direction with respect to at least one said downstream machine section.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the transfer strip is positioned such that ultimately the whole width thereof is taken up in an appropriate downstream machine section.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said at least one downstream machine section includes at least one first machine section and at least one further machine section, the transfer strip being first produced at a smaller spacing to the relevant web edge for a transfer thereof into said at least one first machine section, the spacing to the relevant web edge being  
5 subsequently enlarged for a transfer of the transfer strip into said at least one further machine

section, the enlarging occurring due to an appropriate movement of at least one separation element in the transverse direction.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the machine has a transverse direction relative to the web running direction, and further comprises the step of appropriately moving at least one of said separation elements in the transverse direction in order to set a desired width of the transfer strip.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each said separation element works one of in a non-contact manner and as a mechanical cutting element.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one said separation element works in a non-contact manner, said at least one said separation element being one of a water jet and a laser beam separation element.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one said separation element works as a mechanical cutting element, said at least one said separation element being one of a knife and a circular knife element.

18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said machine is a paper machine including at least a last drying cylinder, each said separation element working in a non-contact manner, the separating occurring on the last drying cylinder.

19. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein each said separation element is a mechanical cutting element, the separating occurring in a non-supported run of the material web.

20. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising guiding a portion of the material web into one of a pulper and a waste container at a start of the separating.

21. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein both separation elements are applied within the material web, the separating accordingly beginning therewithin.

22. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one said separation element is activated outside the material web.

23. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the edge strip and the remaining web are led into one of a pulper and a waste container up to a point where the whole width is taken up.

24. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transferring the transfer strip to said at least one downstream section via at least one auxiliary transfer device.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein each auxiliary transfer device is one of a rope guide, a transfer belt and an air guide device.

26. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the edge strip has an approximate width of 50 mm to 300 mm.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the edge strip has an approximate width of 50 mm to 250 mm.

28. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transfer strip has an approximate width of 50 mm to 400 mm.

29. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the transfer strip has an approximate width of 50 mm to 200 mm.

30. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the edge strip has a relevant web edge, the machine having at least one of a support edge and an auxiliary guide, the transfer strip having a first strip edge most disposed most closely to the relevant web edge, the first strip edge being spaced more than approximately 150 mm from said at least one of a support edge and an auxiliary  
5 guide.

31. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the edge strip has a relevant web edge, the machine having at least one of a support edge and an auxiliary guide, the transfer strip having a first strip edge most disposed most closely to the relevant web edge, the first strip edge being spaced approximately 150 mm to approximately 1000 mm from said at least one of a support edge  
5 and an auxiliary guide.

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